

I expect this bill will pass today. I only hope that it can be improved in conference with the Senate so I can vote for the final spending agreement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote Nos. 202, 205 and 214. I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 199, 200, 201, 203, 204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, and 223.

HONORING DR. AILEEN RIOTTO SIREY FOR HER SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND OUR COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with my heartfelt thanks and appreciation that I rise today to join the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered to pay tribute to the invaluable contributions of my good friend, Dr. Aileen Riotta Sirey. After founding and leading the National Organization of Italian American Women for more than 30 years, Aileen has decided to step down from the helm. She has led NOIAW with pride, integrity, honor and, most importantly, passion—molding it into the outstanding organization it is today.

Aileen has one of the most unique personal stories I have ever come across. After receiving both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brooklyn College, she began teaching in Brooklyn. With the birth of her daughter, JoAnne, she left the workforce and spent the next five years as a full time mother. When she decided to go back to work, she joined Beth Israel Hospital as a community organizer and she was soon recruited by the Maternal Infant Care Project, a program within the New York City Health Department, to develop the first In-Hospital Family Planning Program. Under this program, community women were recruited, screened, and trained in peer counseling in birth control and were placed in 25 New York City Hospitals. Women talking to women about family planning—which at the time was still not commonplace—was an extraordinary effort. Aileen went on to for two consulting firms in health services and later earned her doctorate in psychology and started her own practice. For most this would seem like a lifetime's of work already completed—but not for Aileen.

One of Aileen's greatest professional interests has been the effects of culture on values, attitudes, and behaviors. It was because of

this interest that, more than 30 years ago, Aileen gathered a small group of Italian American women in her Upper West Side apartment. That meeting and their desire to assist other Italian American women and develop a nationwide network of women sharing a common ancestry sparked the formation of the National Organization of Italian American Women. Through their commitment to this effort, NOIAW members have developed a very successful scholarship and mentoring program and also offer a variety of educational and social programs. Today, NOIAW has a strong membership and is well-known as a resource for other Italian American women pursuing their own educational and professional aspirations. Throughout our nation's history, Italian Americans have played a pivotal role in the success and progress of America. The myriad of invaluable contributions that those of Italian ancestry have made to this nation are immeasurable. NOIAW celebrates these contributions and our rich ethnic history—it is Aileen's lasting legacy to our country and to all Italian-American families.

I have had the distinct pleasure to work with Aileen on a variety of projects over the years. She is an extraordinary resource and her positive energy and enthusiasm is contagious. She instills an inspiration in others that does not quickly fade. I consider myself fortunate to call her my friend and would be remiss if I did not extend a special note of thanks to her for her many years of special friendship and support.

More than anything else, Aileen's greatest pride is in her family. I am proud to join her husband, Charles, her daughter and son-in-law, JoAnne and Sol, and her granddaughters, Emma and Maia, as well as all of those who have gathered this evening in extending my very best wishes to Aileen Riotta Sirey as she celebrates her retirement. She has set an extraordinary example of service and dedication—it is a bar to which we should all strive.

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize this year's "Women Who Make a Difference" being honored by the YWCA in my home of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Since 1954, the YWCA of Bucks County has worked to empower women and provide a wide range of educational programs to the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations in our community.

After accepting nominations from the community, the YWCA has chosen the following women to receive this year's honors: Anne Clark, Yolando D'Arcangelo, Jeryl DeGideo, Susan Eckert, Mynetta Edwards, Kim Everett, Kathy Feldcamp, L.J. Herman, Jo Klienmann-Wood, Jacqueline Garnett Neal, Sally Pollock, and Kathleen Rosso-Gana.

All of these women have made a big difference in my Congressional District. Their overall empathy for others has helped our neighbors fight life threatening diseases and overcome physical challenges. Their enthusiasm for learning has inspired our youth, and their sense of duty has compelled them to assist total strangers in crisis, sometimes putting their own lives at risk.

The hard work and dedication that these women have shown has made Bucks County a better place for all of us. Thanks again to the YWCA and all of this year's honorees.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, we pride ourselves on the support we give our men and women in uniform.

So much so, that over the last ten years, "Support the Troops" has become a rallying cry that cuts through all social and political difference.

This month is Military Appreciation Month, and today I rise to thank the men and women serving in our military in Kansas and around the world.

This week, as the House attempts to block the gutting of our defense department, I think it is important to remember that the first priority of the Federal Government is to protect us and there are brave men and women across the globe who deserve our support.

So from Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Field, and other military installation across Kansas's Second District and indeed the world, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the men and women of our armed services. Your service makes my service possible.

ACLU RECOGNIZES SHARON KISSEL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I enter this statement on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU. The ACLU is a non-partisan organization with more than 500,000 members, 53 state and local affiliations, and countless additional activists and supporters, dedicated to the principles of equality and justice as set forth in the U.S. Constitution and in our laws protecting individual rights. The ACLU asked me to enter the following statement into the RECORD recognizing Sharon Kissel, a DC resident who serves as Legislative Librarian for the organization.

On the 15th anniversary of Sharon Kissel's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union Washington Legislative Office, her colleagues and many friends would like to honor her tremendous work over the past two decades on many of our nation's most pressing civil rights and civil liberties issues. In her role as the Legislative Librarian, Sharon is one of the unsung heroines in the ACLU's efforts to achieve equal justice, freedom, and fairness for all. Over the past 15 years, Sharon's work has been critical to a wide range of issues, including the ACLU's advancement of the Fair Sentencing Act, the Violence Against Women Act, and the ACLU's national security advocacy.

Sharon has been a key participant in some of the most important civil liberties and civil and human rights campaigns over the past 15